



NEWS RELEASE

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Secretary Norton Announces New Appointments to BLM New Mexico Resource Advisory Council

Santa Fe, NM - Interior Secretary Gale Norton announced the appointment of six new members to New Mexico's 15-member citizen-based Resource Advisory Council, which advises the Bureau of Land Management on public land issues. Appointed to the Council are: Bruce Gantner and John Thompson, Farmington, Energy/Minerals; Mark Marley, Roswell, Federal Grazing; Cliff Larsen, Santa Fe, National/Regional Environmental; Gerald Chacon, Espanola, Natural Resource Management; and Betty Haagenstad, Ojo Caliente, Public at Large.

"I welcome our new members to the Resource Advisory Council and commend them for their commitment," Norton said. "I look forward to their advice and recommendations as we work together to improve the health and productivity of our public lands."

"The work of the Resource Advisory Councils is a prime example of Cooperative Conservation," Norton noted. "This unique partnership strengthens our management efforts and helps to promote citizen stewardship."

BLM Director Kathleen Clarke said, "RAC members come from a variety of backgrounds and bring a wide range of perspectives to each of our councils. This diversity results in a balanced outlook that the BLM needs for its mission, which is to manage the public lands for multiple uses." The BLM, an agency of the Department of the Interior, is responsible for managing these various uses – such as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production – while conserving the land's natural, historical, and cultural resources.

The 15-member BLM Resource Advisory Council for New Mexico provides advice and recommendations to the BLM on resource and land management issues for 13.4 million acres of public lands in New Mexico.

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